

California CCW – SB 2 “Sensitive Places” & Parking Areas

Last updated: November 3, 2025

(For CA DOJ CCW students. Not legal advice. Always verify current local policy and court rulings.)

What SB 2 Changed

- Effective January 1, 2024, SB 2 replaced the “good cause” requirement with standardized eligibility criteria and expanded the list of “sensitive places.”
- Many sensitive-place bans also include the building, real property, and parking area under that location’s control (Penal Code § 26230).

Where CCW Holders May Carry

- Your own residence, business, or property you lawfully possess.
- Private property with owner consent (unless posted otherwise).
- Shared-use parking lots that are not under the exclusive control of a sensitive place (e.g., a general shopping-center lot).
- Hospitals and medical facilities
- Public transit
- Permitted assemblies (like festivals and parades)
- Places of worship
- Banks and financial institutions and their attached parking areas
- NOTE: The rule about private businesses needing to post “guns OK” signs was stayed

Where CCW Holders May NOT Carry

Subject to current litigation and limited exceptions:

- Schools (K-12) buildings, grounds, and parking areas — still prohibited under Penal Code §§ 26230(a)(7) and 626.9.
- Bars & restaurants serving alcohol, casinos, stadiums/arenas, courthouses & government buildings, polling places.
- Public libraries, museums/zoos, amusement parks, playgrounds & parks, certain transit facilities, and airport secure areas.
- Child care facilities
- Courts
- Local government buildings
- Jails and prisons
- Police Stations

- Nuclear facilities
- Polling Places
- Any place prohibited by federal or local law

Parking Areas Clarified

- If a parking area is under the exclusive control of a listed sensitive place (e.g., school lot, courthouse lot, stadium lot), it is treated as part of that restricted property.
- Shared-use lots (not exclusively controlled by the sensitive place) are generally allowed, as long as you do not enter the prohibited building or grounds.
- School property rule: You may drive through or park on school property only if the firearm is unloaded and locked in a container or the locked trunk of your vehicle (Penal Code § 626.9(c)(2)). Never handle the firearm on school grounds.

Litigation Timeline & Key Rulings

- Dec 20, 2023: U.S. District Court (C.D. Cal.) issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of most SB 2 sensitive-place bans.
- Sept 6, 2024: U.S. Ninth Circuit (Carralero v. Bonta) partially reversed the injunction.
- Jan 23, 2025: Several sensitive-place prohibitions became enforceable again.
- Further appeals remain pending; enforcement may vary by county.

Student Notes

- Enforcement varies by county; always check your issuing agency's website and CA DOJ bulletins.
- Respect posted signage and private-property rules.
- Keep a copy of this SB 2 update in your file to show the version and date of instruction.

References

- Penal Code §§ 26230, 26155, 626.9
- CA DOJ Firearms Division Advisory 2025-DLE-06
- Carralero v. Bonta, 9th Cir. (Sept 6, 2024)
- OAG and County Sheriff SB 2 guidance (2025)